



HISTORIC TOWN OF EATONVILLE, FLORIDA

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

MEETING MINUTES (AMENDED)

Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 7:30 PM

Town Hall – 307 E. Kennedy Blvd.

SPECIAL NOTICE: These meeting minutes are presented in an abbreviated format intended as a public record discussion of stated meeting according to the Florida's Government-in-the-Sunshine law. Meetings are opened to the public, noticed within reasonable advance notice, and transcribed into minutes for public record. ****Audio Recording are available through the Town's website on the Council Agenda Page.**

CALL TO ORDER AND VERIFICATION OF QUORUM:

Mayor Gardner called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and a quorum was established by Mrs. King.

PRESENT: (5), Mayor Angie Gardner, Vice Mayor Theo Washington, Councilman Rodney Daniels, Councilwoman Wanda Randolph, Councilman Tarus Mack

STAFF: (6) Demetrius Pressley, **Chief Administrator Officer**, Veronica King, **Town Clerk**, Clifford Shepard, **Town Attorney**, Stanley Murray, **Police Chief**, Cobbin McGee, **Town Planner**, Brittani Gragg, **Executive Assistant**

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Invocation through a moment of silence led by Mayor Gardner followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Mayor Gardner Motions to **APPROVE** the meeting agenda; **Moved** by Councilwoman Randolph; **Second** by Vice Mayor Washington; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

PRESENTATION – (*Added to the agenda by consensus of the Council*)

Lorenzo Jorin (Presenter/Promoter) – Presented Droville Music Festival and Elements of Life United Music, Arts, and Modern Culture in the Town of Eatonville – Proposing a 4-day festival in October that will bring traffic to Eatonville and help uplift community, a festival that has been cultivated over the past few years over in Orlando in the Mills district, want to bring the festival home to Eatonville (Hungerford Field), the festival presents music, art, culture, and embody Eatonville spirit while driving community empowerment and growth, expecting 5,000-8,000 attendees, the initiative is a movement to transfer heritage into inspiration and lasting impact for our community, (Elements of Life) where the family can bring the kids, the adults, the seniors, everyone can come out for free, enjoy the artists, the muralists, live bands and the music to include food trucks, kid zone will be located at town hall; (Droville Music Festival) takes place in the evening in the field (for ages 18 and up), alcohol will be available across the street from town hall; the key benefits for Eatonville is economic growth, thousands of visitors will bring revenue to local businesses bringing the money back to Eatonville, bringing people back to Eatonville (from around the country), bringing events to make this town successful, investing in Eatonville's future, partnership with the town will help to create a legacy that celebrates heritage, uplifts the youth, and drive growth for generations to come; **Council Comments:** Inquired about registration with the State of Florida and having a business tax license (Yes), the town would not need to provide any money or any insurances, the timeframe is from 6pm to 12pm (may need a noise ordinance), consider moving the time to start at 4pm or 5pm, disclaimer, expressed concerns about having events on sacred ground (town hall); Elements of Life Festival will have a seniors corner, provide a farmer's market vendor providing veggies, protein, and other produce; cities do events in the parking lot to bring people to the main corridor, use of the field will have to be approved by the school board;

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION – (3)

Charles Bargaineer – Thanked the administration for the resolution provided to the family during the passing of sister

Angela and Inel Fleming – (pictures were shown through Councilwoman Randolph) Expressed concerns about a trash dumpster (commercial) that was installed close to the front property of residential home located at 532 Clark Street (about 25 feet from front door); approved by the town, the new restaurant expanded the back and side for seating; Mr. Pressley have talked with universal engineering, the permitting department, and planning, looking into seeing what can be done differently (will let council know the final results), do understand the concerns; it is right on the property line.

Joyce Irby – Inquired about buildings being demolished, what historic buildings, what buildings are being demolished, encouraged to inform the residents so they can express thoughts about opinions about things that are considered historic, do not slip in through the night with no bulldozer,

APPROVAL CONSENT AGENDA: Mayor Gardner Motions to APPROVE the Consent Agenda; approving Town Council Meeting Minutes for 4-1-25, approval of the Piggyback Continuing Service Agreement for Professional Architectural Services with Rhodes and Brito Architects, Inc., and approval Use of Eatonville American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds for Utilities Equipment Purchase; **Moved by Vice Mayor Washington; Second by Councilwoman Randolph; AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

COUNCIL DECISIONS: None.

REPORTS:

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER: Demetrius Pressley – (Updates) April ~~Fool's~~ Pool's event was a success; will gather on May 10th (10am – 2pm) to support the pool opening anniversary and raise funds; the Eatonville Vikings (football) is back up and headed up by Dominique and the Recreation Department; strategic planning has begun (smart goals), request feedback from council, next session is set for the second meeting in May to be spent mostly on budgetary items, department overviews, and some interactions with the community to get feedback, important for council to attend as decision makers for the community; working on the master plan next meeting; have some meetings regarding the Hungerford property, working with Superintendent Vasquez, and council will be hearing more about the Eatonville Community Land Trust (reviewing the standards), want input from council and the community; completed the 2024 audit, there is a draft review hoping to bring to the 1st meeting in May with a presentation, current numbers, and findings for review and approval, will help to set the final forecasting numbers; the attorney will speak on the proposed legislations that may affect the town such as the CRAs and property taxes; the KaBoom project which was to do a 3 to 4 day project of installing a full playground behind the Boys and Girls Club, did the ribbon cutting at 3pm today, it is not only for the Boys and Girls Club but also for the Eatonville community, they redid the area for the small garden area, the recreation department (Mr. Washington) has a great relationship with the Boys and Girls Club and already collaborating on many things; there is an important meeting tomorrow over at the county for the CDBGDR Funding opportunity, confident and hoping for the max of what has been requested or at least half.

ATTORNEY: Clifford Shepard – a new amendment came out yesterday (changes from the initial amendment), it will still end all CRAs in 2045, new projects started from here and forward that are funded from this year forward can still be done as long as they are completed by our CRA termination date or 2045 (termination of all CRAs) whichever comes first, have to do projects that can be funded and paid for by the date; it is proposed to do away with property taxes, all governments are funded through property taxes, pay for lights, discussing sales tax as being the alternative (the worst alternative), more money is going to taxes instead of the things actually need,

TOWN CLERK: Veronica King – thanked council for patience working with the administration, had some printing challenges preventing the delivery of packages as council is accustomed to, request that council revisit

the idea of going paperless and vote electronically through the meeting agenda software, packages can be accessed through an electronic device, if it is the desire of council, the steps can be taking towards implementation, will save money.

TOWN COUNCIL REPORT -

Councilman Tarus Mack – thanked everyone for being engaged in town business, condolences to the Williams family and others that have suffered any loss; acknowledged the presentation, appreciate everything being brought to the table; expressed concerns about trash being dumped in the community, encourage anyone who sees trash to pick it up; expressed concerns about the dumpster being placed close to a residential home, need to address sooner than later; Saturday (April 5th) was an eventful day which included the bike ride (1st Saturday at 7:30am), the butterfly garden (at the Chambers of Commerce), the April ~~Fool's~~ Pool's event was amazing, seeing people doing positive things in the community, acknowledged the administration and the work being done, going paperless makes sense (great idea); the 1887 First event (also on April 5th), acknowledged Julian Johnson for job well done; anticipating the cleanup day on the 1st Saturday in June to include paper shredding, can dispose items that are not hazardous; inquired to legal about any open lawsuits (none)

**** (Mr. Pressley)** informed the Council and community of the town's Chief of police being elected to be a part of the 2025 FDLE Chief Executive Leadership Academy, want to congratulate and acknowledge the town's chief (Stanley Murray)

Councilman Rodney Daniels – stated that the trash truck has been leaking (Eaton Street), unacceptable; people do not respect the walkway, need signs over in front of Saint Lawrence AME (Chief is getting with Orange County to address, trying to get electronic signs with flashers), Chief will be bringing to the next meeting requesting support of the cameras to monitor the behavior; expressed the need to fix the door in the breezeway, it takes a lot to open; condolences to the Bargaineer Family, the Williams family, and others who has lost someone.

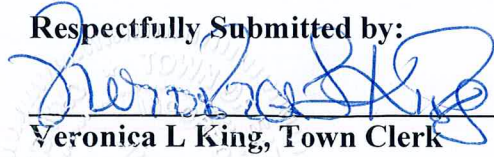
Councilwoman Wanda Randolph – condolences to the former mayor and Bargaineer family; receiving concerns about the water bill, one business is alleging that the meter was installed incorrectly (JJ Moving had a leak in the building), there was no miscalculations, the meters are not calibrated meters, they are satellite meters; have had some issues at Saint Lawrence AME with people dumping trash in the dumpster, if you see it happening notify law enforcement; encouraged others to assist in discouraging young people about drinking and driving (referencing a fatal accident where three young ladies were killed due to drinking and driving 116 miles per hour, it is a serious problem in our country; hosting a strictly business gathering in Eatonville on April 28, 2025 (8:30-10:00am) located on the west end at a local business), Mr. Pressley has been invited to give information about the town.

Vice Mayor Theo Washington – April 5th was a great day with the bike ride, April ~~Fool's~~ Pool's event, the 1887 farmers market, looking forward to May 10; welcome back to the Eatonville Vikings; condolences to the Williams and Bargaineer families; expressed concerns about losing properties (historic), need to work with property owners.

Councilwoman Wanda Randolph – the ribbon cutting at the Kaboom was nice, people came from all over; condolences to the Bargaineer family; acknowledged the recreation department for doing a great job in bringing back the kids; strategic planning was one of the tenants when running for office, we can say we are going anywhere, but without a plan and following that plan, it does not matter, thanks to Mr. Pressley for ensuring that this is at the forefront; the April ~~Fool's~~ Pool's event was a fun day; reminded the public about completing the applications for the rebuild together program, there is an emergency meeting on April 17th at 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. for those who need to turn in or missing documents, can finish the application or get more information, located at the Denton Johnson Center, apply and help get the word out; acknowledged Chief for everything that he has been doing and apologize for not bringing him forward at the Kaboom ribbon cutting

ADJOURNMENT Mayor Gardner Motions for Adjournment of Meeting; **Moved** by Councilman Mack;
Second by Vice Mayor Washington; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. Meeting Adjourned at 8:31pm.**

Respectfully Submitted by:


Veronica L King, Town Clerk

APPROVED


Angie Gardner, Mayor